GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5034
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
IDEAL USAGE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any effort to draw up a soil nutrition map of the country with special reference to be required or ideal usage of chemical fertilizers in such areas;

(b) if so, the time is likely to be taken to draw such a map;

(c) if not, the reasons for not highlighting the requirement of chemical nutrients to the soil;

(d) whether any fertilizer unit has undertaken the exercise to properly match the requirement of chemical fertilizers to local soil needs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (c) Indian Council of Agriculture Research has been preparing soil fertilitymaps of the country since 1969 in respect of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash. These maps were subsequently updated in 1976 and 1980. Soil fertility map for zinc and sulphur were made in 1998 and 1999. The map for phosphorus status was updated in 1993. This is a continuing process.

The soil fertility maps provide generalized picture of fertility status of soils. However, individual soil test based fertilizer recommendation forms the scientific basis of fertilizer use. Such recommendations are made by soil testing laboratories and farmers are advised to follow such recommendations.

(d) & (e) Major Fertilizer units have been promoting soil test based fertilizer application through their soil testing laboratories which recommend fertilizer use after analysis of soil samples. There are 56 soil testing laboratories with the fertilizer industry having analysing capacity of 5.4 lakh samples per annum.